

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting of:

~~a sequence belonging to a *gag* gene of an endogenous retrovirus, wherein said nucleic acid molecule consists of a sequence selected from the group consisting of:~~

(i) the sequence ~~set forth in~~ consisting of SEQ ID NO:2;

~~(ii) a sequence consisting of an open reading frame encoding a polypeptide, wherein the polypeptide encoded in the open reading frame an expression product, the sequence of which consists of the sequence ~~set forth in~~ SEQ ID NO:31; and~~

(iii) the sequence that is fully complementary to sequence (i) or (ii).

2-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) An isolated transcription product ~~which can be obtained by the complete transcription of an entire nucleic acid molecule consisting of a sequence selected from the group consisting of:~~

(i) the sequence ~~set forth in~~ consisting of SEQ ID NO:2; and

~~(ii) a sequence consisting of an open reading frame encoding a polypeptide, wherein the polypeptide encoded in the open reading frame an expression product, the sequence of which consists of the sequence ~~set forth in~~ SEQ ID NO:31.~~

8-15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) A reagent comprising at least one isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1.

17-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) A reagent comprising at least one transcription product according to claim 7.

22–45. (Canceled)

46. (Currently Amended) The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1, wherein said molecule consists of the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

47–48. (Canceled)